

to prevent them from coming in with so large a force.

Mr. Donaldson replied that three demands must be complied with before he would consent not to enter Lawrence with all his forces. These demands are:

First—That every man against whom a process is issued should be surrendered.

Second—That all the munitions of war in Lawrence should be delivered up.

Third—That the citizens of Lawrence should pledge themselves implicitly to obey the present enactments of Kansas, state, county, and all.

Upon receiving this reply, the citizens held a public meeting, and drew up a letter to the Marshal, the substance of which is thus given by Mr. Hutchinson, who was one of the committee appointed to draw it up:

We have reliable information that large armed forces have collected in pursuance of your proclamation around Lawrence; and in order that there may be no misunderstanding, we wish to know what your demands upon this people are.

We say most truthfully and most earnestly, that the Marshal, and every person acting under him, will be allowed to execute any legal process against any inhabitant of Lawrence; and, if called upon, we are ready to serve as a posse in making these arrests.

We further promise that there will not now, nor at any future time, be any resistance to law, and we only await the opportunity to testify our fidelity to the Union and the Constitution.

We claim to be law-abiding and order-loving citizens, and we ask that this community be protected by the constituted authorities.

Mr. Cox returned to Mr. Donaldson with this letter, and came back at night. He said the Marshal would reply in the morning.

This letter was sent on Wednesday forenoon to Mr. Donaldson, and on Thursday morning Messrs. W. T. Roberts, G. W. Babcock, Josiah Miller, went up to Leecompton to obtain the Marshal's answer.

Mr. Hutchinson left Lawrence, with a note to Colonel Sumner, at the time the committee left Leecompton.

Mr. Whitney, a citizen of Lawrence, was despatched by the people there last night, about midnight, and on Thursday morning Messrs. W. T. Roberts, G. W. Babcock, Josiah Miller, went up to Leecompton to obtain the Marshal's answer.

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The purpose of the Marshal's answer was, that he did not believe the promises of the people of Lawrence; that he regarded them as rebels and traitors, and that they should know his demands when he came.

When they were ready to return, the Marshal gave them a written pass.

When the committee were a short distance from Leecompton, they were overtaken by an armed company of men, who ordered them to halt.

Their leader stepped up to Mr. Miller and said: "I want you to go back with us."

Messrs. Roberts and Babcock wished to return with him, but the company compelled them to proceed to Lawrence.

When arrested, Mr. Miller showed them the Marshal's pass. The leader said he did not care a damn about the Marshal; he might go with him. No writ of any kind was produced.

Mr. Jenkins, a merchant of Lawrence, was arrested by a mob at Westport or Kansas City, on Wednesday. Mr. Jenkins is a free State man, but has never taken an active part in the movements of the squatter party.

No warrant, of course, for he was arrested in Missouri.

The following is a copy of an extra that was issued at Weston, Missouri:

WESTPORT, May 20, 1856.

We learn from Mr. Brewerton, who left Franklin, K. T., last night at eight o'clock, that he had been arrested.

As Mr. Cosgrove and Dr. Brannon were on their way to Franklin, K. T., from Leecompton, they were hailed by a party of abolitionists, who inquired of them who they were and where they were going.

On being answered, the commander of the party turned to his men and asked their motto. Their reply was, "Harsh's Rights," and immediately they brought their rifles to bear on Messrs. Cosgrove and Brannon.

The latter was wounded in the arm, but Cosgrove sent a ball whirling through the brain of their leader. The balance then fled.

An Abolitionist was shot at Blanton's Bridge yesterday morning.

Mr. Brewerton was pursued several miles by armed men, and only escaped by the speed of his horse.

Comment is unnecessary. We want action. Sherman and Howard's war has commenced. Where it will end remains to be seen.

The St. Louis Republican, of the 22d inst., says:

When the Lucas left Kansas, a report was current that the abolitionists were preparing to evacuate Lawrence, and had called upon Col. Sumner, in command at Fort Leavenworth, to protect their property.

Kickapoo, Leavenworth City, Doniphan and Atchison were almost entirely deserted—the men probably having obeyed the call of the Marshal to aid him in Lawrence.

The Intelligence contains the following:

We learn by a gentleman who left Lexington, Mo., some days ago, that an order had been issued to that county for three hundred men to aid the United States government in administering the law in Kansas.

This movement is an outside one entirely, and bodes no good for the peace of the Territory. Let Uncle Sam thrash his own children if he need be. It does not look well to see the old ones try to thrash the young ones.

From the Pennsylvania.

The Recognition of Nicaragua.

We do not at all sympathize with those who seem to apprehend that the recognition of the Rivas-Walker Government of Nicaragua, will necessarily involve us in a war with Great Britain.

Why should it? Our relations to the State of Nicaragua are not altered by the reception of Father Viji, instead of Senor Marcolita, as its representative.

Our Government did not, by this act, enter into any treaty of alliance, offensive or defensive, with the new Government. In all essential particulars, it stands precisely where it stood before.

It will still continue to enforce its neutrality laws. It will still consider those of our citizens who enter into the service of Nicaragua, as having voluntarily expatriated themselves, and as having for this reason, lost their rights of citizenship in the United States.

It will be remembered, that this right of expatriation has always been held, and asserted, by our Government.

It is proceeded on in our naturalization of foreigners, and as a matter of course and consistency, the right has always been accorded to our own people.

To a certain extent, our Government is already committed to prevent the annexation of the British in Central America.

Assuredly in the existing state of popular feeling in this country, any serious aggression by Great Britain in this quarter, would inevitably be followed by war. But why should it be thought that the recognition of the Rivas Government by the United States, in accordance with established policy, should provoke such aggression.

We see no reasonable ground, whatever, for this opinion. In point of fact, we look upon the constant war cry kept up by some people in this country, as a mere scarecrow. Apart from the irritation and national excitement growing out of their discussion, we do not see how any of these questions pending

between the United States and foreign States can lead to a war, and we believe that both parties in these disputes have too many interests at stake, and too much in common, to allow mere angry feelings to force them into hostilities.

If it be authorized—if our Government is to proceed in a just and judicious foreign policy only as the cost of a war—why let the war come. We are about as well prepared for a war now as we ever have been, or are likely to be for a long time to come.

Meanwhile we are not sorry to see the moral support of our recognition extended to Nicaragua. We look upon her cause as bound up with the regeneration of Central America.

If this fertile region once becomes settled by North Americans, it will add vastly to the wealth, the happiness and the power of the whole world. The United States is not the only country which will profit by its development, England and all Europe will be equally benefited.

It is only a narrow policy, a blind jealousy, an apprehension of something undefined and, indeed, without any reality—some shadowy fear that the "Yankees" will gain some peculiar advantages by new states of the kind—that induced foreign intrigues against Walker. If England were wise, she would see that the prosperity of these same "Yankees" is her own, and that the more we gain, the more finds its way into her pockets.

From the National Intelligencer.

INTRODUCTION OF TROPICAL FIBROUS PLANTS.

The reader may remember that some months since we published a communication from Mr. Wilson, of the Royal Botanic Garden of Jamaica, who was then on a visit to this city, relative to the vegetable products of tropical countries which could be used for economical purposes, but more especially such as were of a fibrous character and well adapted for making paper, cordage, cloth, and other textile fabrics.

Specimens of the elaborated fibres were exhibited by him to many of our citizens, and a few samples left at the National Gallery in the Patent Office building for future inspection.

In carrying out his views of introducing the growth and cultivation of such plants in the United States he displayed much commendable and disinterested zeal, and left seeds of some of the kinds referred to by Mr. Smith, the superintendent of the Botanic Garden in this city, who entered with much spirit into Mr. Wilson's plans.

Some of these seeds have produced plants, which, with careful management, may serve to test the question as to whether they may be naturalized among us, and it is desirable to determine where in our wide-spread territory, and under what peculiarities of soil, temperature, and moisture, they will come to the greatest perfection.

We wish particularly to call attention now to one species of fibrous plant, commonly called *China Grass*, of which Mr. Smith has a few plants for distribution, which he would be glad to place in the hands of proprietors of botanic gardens in the South, if they will apply to him through their respective members of Congress.

It will be perceived from the above that the Botanic Garden is carrying out the intention upon which it was chiefly founded, which was to receive and cultivate such living plants as were introduced into the United States by means of its exploring expeditions, and to distribute its duplicates to such parts of the country as would be suitable, and to such persons as were capable of properly carrying on the experiments.

The knowledge and skill of the superintendent, and the ardor with which he conducts his operations, are deserving of the countenance and support of all parties, and it is gratifying to know that his efforts are appreciated and his labors are spreading a knowledge of what is useful and a love of what is beautiful in his department.

We beg leave to call attention to the following account of the *China Grass*, which has been supplied by a scientific friend:

China Grass.

This beautiful textile product has long been known, although the precise plant from which it was obtained was not certainly identified.

Full descriptions of the mode of cultivation and of preparing the fibre had been translated from the Chinese into various languages, and it was also known that the plant belonged to the nettle family, so famous for its fibrous products; for in the earlier history of our own country we find that the first settlers in the West used the common nettle at a time when, from their warlike mode of life, they were not able to attend to the culture of flax.

It is now ascertained that the *China Grass* is obtained from the *Bahemia Nigra*. Early in the present century Dr. Boxburgh and others endeavored to excite an interest in the cultivation of this plant under the name of *Ulica tocinensis*, a name given on account of the great strength of the fibre. It is also cultivated in Java, under the name of *Ramie*, from whence specimens of the fibre and the plant itself were brought by Hon. J. B. Alden, late Commissioner to Cochinchina and Siam.

These specimens have been submitted to the inspection of gentlemen conversant in such matters, with the hope of drawing attention to a product of so much importance. The identity of the *China Grass* plants is now fully established, on the authority of Hooker and others.

One of the striking features of the great exhibition of 1851 at London was the display of this beautiful fibre in all stages of preparation, and of the goods manufactured from it. A part of this collection is now deposited in the museum of the United States Patent Office.

Few fibres have a greater reputation for strength and beauty, and of this no better evidence can be desired, than the fact that the plant is exported from the East, it sells in England at prices which have ranged from £60 to as high as £120 per ton.

The Chinese books give full directions for the cultivation of the plant and the preparation of its fibre. The seeds are sown in a light and moist soil, and when germinating, and some time after, secured from the scorching effects of the sun's rays.

But afterwards the more rapid mode of propagation is from the roots and shoots, which may be divided and transplanted. The *China Grass* is commonly cut down for its fibre thrice in the year, the first cutting yielding the coarsest, and the last the finest product.

Under favorable circumstances it attains a height of eight feet, and the fibre six feet in length may be obtained.

There seems to be a reasonable hope that this valuable plant might be profitably introduced, and the thanks of the community are due to the disinterested efforts of the gentleman who has taken the trouble of rearing it for the first time in this country.

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From the Pennsylvania of May 20.

The Cincinnati Convention.

The Queen City of the West is now the Mecca to which all eyes are turned, and the avenues of travel are thronged with eager political pilgrims on their journey thither to act as delegates, or as spectators, or as champions of their respective favorite candidates.

Although there are at this time numerous topics of great interest occupying the public mind, none awaken so much anxiety and feeling among all classes and all parties as the approaching Democratic National Convention.

It is interesting as a voluntary assemblage of the representatives of the people, meeting together in their primary capacity, to consummate the initiative step towards selecting a ruler to guide the destinies of this great nation, and as another illustration of the capacity for self-government and ability to combine the action of the masses as to meet every important exigency of governmental policy, peculiar to the American people.

It is interesting as a political assemblage, distinct from and independent of the regularly constituted government, and representative of every section of our wide-spread confederacy.

Separated by thousands of miles from each other, one common object draws them together from their distant homes.

The sons of Maine grasp hands with their political brethren of California. The Democrat of Iowa greets his brother Democrat of Florida.

The North, South, East and West are all thoroughly represented, and each part of the great whole that makes up the Union sends a delegate to express the views and enforce the sentiments of its Democratic citizens.

It is interesting because most weighty and momentous affairs will be greatly affected by the result of its deliberations.

A nation's well-being hangs in the balance of its members' national solicitude will hover over its proceedings. Millions of men will eagerly await the announcement of its proceedings, and after ascertaining the result, millions of hearts will throb with joy if their expectations and desires are gratified, or with sorrow if they are disappointed.

The doings of the Cincinnati Convention will be pronounced with important consequences to America—perhaps to the world.

The delegates should, and we think they will, bring to their task, that calm but earnest spirit of patriotism and devotion to the welfare of the country which rises above all sordid considerations, all mere party jealousies, paltry trickeries, and low schemings, and be animated by the sole desire to promote the success and advancement of that noble organization, the Democratic party, which has been to the nation from its foundation to the present hour as "a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night," and thus, through its success, secure the continued well-being of our beloved country.

At this juncture it is particularly important that the proceedings of the Cincinnati Convention should be of a character satisfactory to the country at large.

Link by link the chains that once bound our Union so closely together are becoming weakened, if not broken.

National Conventions of any character, whether political or otherwise, are becoming too rare. The recent Know-nothing Convention was but a sorry burlesque of a national gathering, and severed the links of the chain of national unity.

Close upon the heels of the Democratic National Convention we are to have the Black Republican Convention, in which the nomination of a Presidential candidate, who will aspire to rule over the whole nation, will be made by delegates representing but one-half of the States.

To the Democratic Convention all patriotic hearts, therefore, turn, as the representative of the only true National organization, and the only body capable of furnishing a truly National candidate, who will be nominated, canvassed for, elected, and after being elected, administer the affairs of government upon truly National principles.

We believe that in many campaigns, comparatively little depends upon who is the Democratic nominee, provided he is an honest, intelligent man, and a sound Democrat.

At this moment, however, we but express the general conviction in saying, that much depends upon who shall be the nominee.

The times demand a safe, judicious, experienced man, in whose soundness of judgment, weight of character, exalted integrity, and high-toned patriotism, the confidence of the nation can be placed.

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From the New York Sun, 27th.

Mr. Sumner's Statement.

I attended the Senate as usual, on Thursday, the 22d of May; after some formal business, a message was received from the House of Representatives, announcing the death of a member of that body from Missouri.

This was followed by a brief tribute to the deceased from Mr. Geyer, of Missouri, when, according to usage and out of respect to the deceased, the Senate adjourned at once.

Instead of leaving the Senate Chamber with the rest of the Senators, on the adjournment, I continued in my seat, occupied with my pen, and while thus intent, in order to be in season for the mail, which was soon to close, I was approached by a person who, I understood, was connected with me, but I answered them promptly and briefly, excusing myself for the reason that I was much engaged.

When the last of these persons left me, I drew my arm chair close to my desk, and with my legs under the desk, continued writing.

My attention at the time was so entirely drawn from all other subjects that though there must have been many persons in the Senate, I saw nobody. While thus intent, with my head bent over my writing, I was addressed by a person who approached the front of my desk, so entirely absorbed that I was not aware of his presence until I heard my name pronounced.

As I looked up with pen in hand, I saw a tall man, whose countenance was not familiar, standing directly over me, and at the same moment caught these words: "I have read your speech twice over carefully. It is a libel on South Carolina, and Mr. Butler, who is a relative of mine." While these words were still passing from his lips, he commenced a succession of blows with a heavy cane on my bare head, by the first of which I was stunned so as to lose my sight.

I saw no longer my assailant, nor any other person or object in the room. What I did distinctly recollect almost unconsciously, acting under the instinct of self-defence, with head already bent down I rose from my seat, wrenching up my desk which was screwed to the floor, and then pressing forward while my assailant continued his blows. I had no other consciousness until I found myself ten feet forward in front of my desk, lying on the floor of the Senate with my head bleeding and supported on the arm of a gentleman whom I soon recognized by voice and manner as Mr. Morgan of New York.

Other persons there were about me offering me kindly assistance, but I did not recognize any of them. There were at a distance looking on and offering no assistance, of whom I recognized only Mr. Douglas, of Illinois, Mr. Tilden, of New York, and Mr. Sumner, of Massachusetts, who were also my assailants.

I was helped from the floor and conducted into the lobby of the Senate, where I was placed upon a sofa. Of those who helped me here I have no recollection.

As I entered the lobby I recognized Mr. Sidel, of Louisiana, who retreated, but I recognized no one else until I felt a gripe on the back of my head, which seemed to come from Mr. Campbell, of Ohio. I have a vague impression that Mr. Bright, President of the Senate, spoke to me while I was on the floor of the Senate or in the lobby.

I make this statement in answer to the interrogatory of the committee, and offer it as presenting completely all my recollections of the assault, and of the attending circumstances, whether immediately before or immediately after.

I desire to add that beside the words which I have given as uttered by my assailant, I have an indistinct recollection of the words old man; but these are so enveloped in the mist which ensued from the first blow, that I am not sure whether they were uttered or not.

From the South Side Democrat.

Moving the Capital.

Men in passion very commonly make tame fools of themselves, and there never was a more perfect success in this respect than is furnished by the Boston shriekers for freedom cudgeled in the person of the classical fanatic from Massachusetts.

An honorable member in the vigor of manhood years and without the apology of the personal presence of his victim to raise his blackguard to the rank of an outraged hero, undertakes to arraign a grey-haired senator from a distant State as an imbecile and a liar, the cause he represents as "the barbed slavery," and to stigmatize his conduct in defence of that cause as frenzied "in behalf of his wench."

In the absence of the abused man, a relative and a Representative from the same State is called upon to defend the honor of the Senate in the Rotunda of the Capitol and elsewhere, fails to find him, turns his steps to the deserted Senate chamber, discovers him there, and having told him the object of his visit, proceeds to administer a sound caning. Thereupon the most astonishing excitement is manifested, threats loud and deep are uttered, an immense assembly of angry men is gathered round of and the proposition is gravely laid down that if Mr. Brooks is not punished—what? Why the capital must be removed!

Do these geniuses imagine that blackguardism would be more acceptable to Southern ears, if delivered in Boston, or less promptly and efficiently resented?

And then the deprecation, the shameful deprecation! This cannot be endured. It is all right and proper, eminently just and appropriate, for a Bostonian to make the highest legislative hall in the nation the scene of vituperation fit only for the porches of St. Giles or Five Points, vilifying a distinguished statesman, and libelling a noble-hearted State. But when a son of the State, and a relative of the man, is exercised by his duty, and an actual combat ensues, and he proceeds to tear from the assassin the mask of irresponsibility, behind which he has sheltered himself, and to inflict on him that personal chastisement to which alone his bluffed feeling leaves him sensitive, and this, not in the course of debate or of the session of the body, but when the Senate has adjourned and the room was no longer sanctified by the presence of an actual legislator, has been committed, forthwith, and the words of the Senator must be plastered by removing the Capitol, lest, we suppose, his feelings might be excited by his continual contact with disagreeable souvenirs of his sufferings.

The fact is, this tempest in a teapot must be allowed to take its course and wear itself out, so many of the storm of the same elements have before it. The Capitol will not be removed, and Senator Sumner and such cattle will learn a very useful lesson for the guidance of their conduct in the future.

The New Orleans Delta.

The New Orleans Delta, of Tuesday, says: "At half-past seven o'clock, yesterday morning, the principal, R. W. Estlin, Esq., of the firm of Estlin, Lee & Co., of Canal street, and Mr. Cuddy, Esq., a member of the firm of Cuddy, Brown & Co., of Canal street, came on the ground accompanied by their friends. The distance, ten paces, being measured, and the pistol handed to them, the gentlemen took their places. At the first fire, Mr. Estlin, it is rumored, was slightly wounded in the right arm, Mr. Cuddy being uninjured. However, the second fire of Mr. Estlin, we are sorry to say, was the messenger of death to his antagonist. He never breathed after receiving the ball, which entered the groin on the right side, passing through the artery, across the abdomen, and through the opposite artery, and lodging in his left hand. The cause of this unfortunate affair was in relation to matters of business.—New Orleans Delta, May 2.

Twenty acres of land on Narragansett avenue, Newport, R. I., was recently sold to D. S. Davesol, of New York, for \$70,000.

A colony of Dunkards passed through Chicago on the 16th instant, on their way to the West.

From the New York Sun, 27th.